

EXERCISE P3-2 ♦ The semicolon

To read about this topic, see sections P3-a to P3-c in *A Writer's Reference*, Seventh Edition.

Add semicolons in the five word groups that need them; mark the other word groups "OK." Example:

**Cheryl Toussaint's first official run was an indication of her character and determination;
no one could find fault with her effort.**

1. Cheryl's first official run—at a cross-country meet on Long Island—would certainly have impressed any coach every person watching was astounded by her perseverance.
2. Coach Thompson had warned her not to start too fast but to stay with the pack. "Just try to finish," he said.
3. Too excited to follow his directions, Cheryl took off at top speed at the starting gun, moreover, she did not slow down even after she was a hundred yards in front of everyone else.
4. Cheryl kept that distance for most of the run, she did not allow herself any slack.
5. Then, with only a hundred yards to go, Cheryl gave out, she collapsed and fell down.
6. Immediately, she got to her knees and started crawling. She crawled toward the finish line, not toward the grassy area where runners who left the race were supposed to go.
7. She stood up, staggered a little farther, and fell again. Once more she started crawling.
8. Not able to get to her feet again, Cheryl continued to crawl, after all, she was nearly at the finish line.
9. She had almost reached the finish line when another runner passed her and won the race.
10. "I knew at that moment," said her coach, "that this girl was going to be something special."
Her coach was right.